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Shaking-Up The CIA

Like thousands of corks in the sea, stories are now popping to the surface of the news, stories which responsible correspondents can no longer withhold from the American public. And the correspondents tell the same unhappy story, a story of fantastic ineptitude on the part of this nation in its handling of the Cuban invasion.

It becomes clear that the rebel invaders were inadequately trained, inadequately equipped and dispatched, as it turned out, in small squads in an attempt to topple an entrenched dictator and defeat a well-trained, fully-equipped modern army. It was like sending some Little Leaguers into a World Series against the Yankees. The rebels did not have a chance. They were cut down as they hit the beaches with such ease that, apparently, the bulk of the invasion force was never committed to the suicidal battle.

The Central Intelligence Agency, which has had direct supervision over the training and equipping of rebel forces as well as gathering intelligence data from Cuba, must bear the bulk of the blame. If it inadequately prepared the invaders, it was completely wrong about the

popular support which Castro enjoys among the Cuban people.

It is reported that the CIA thought the Cuban people would immediately rise against their dictator at the first sign of rebel military activity. The Cuban people have watched too many of Castro's public executions to be so foolish as that. They must know that the rebels have a darn good chance of winning before they will tempt the firing squad.

From a psychological, as well as military, point of view, it was vitally important that this invasion attempt succeed. A success here would have taken the edge off Russia's spaceman feat and have directed world attention to the problem of enslaved peoples, a problem created by dictatorial communism. Rather than an abortive failure, then, the CIA should have had the good judgment to wait until success seemed nearly a certainty.

For many reasons President Kennedy should conduct a thorough investigation of the CIA. It has been wrong too often in the past. Its mistake in Cuba has been devastatingly embarrassing. Another mistake of such proportions may be, simply, devastating period.